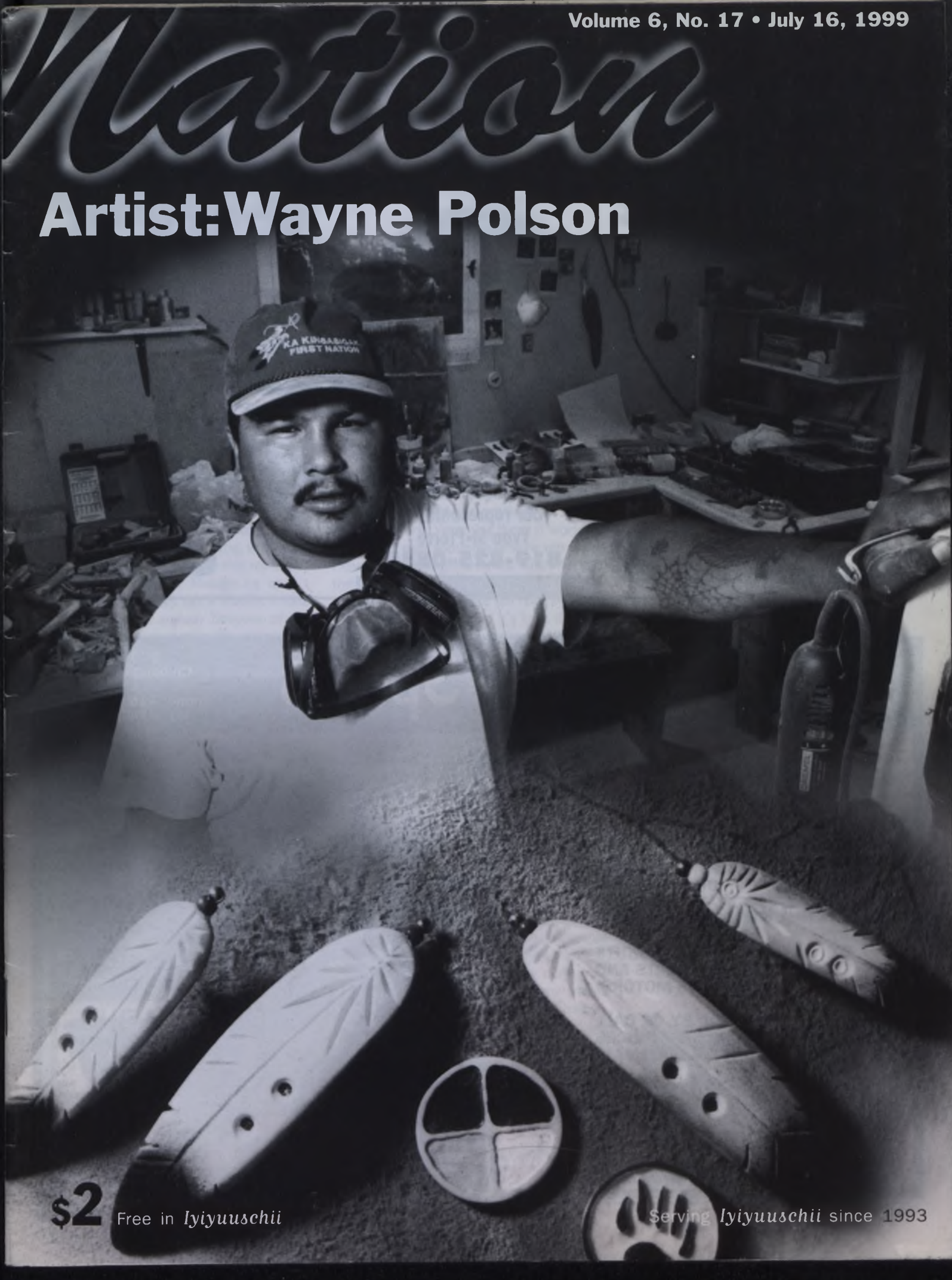
Volume 6, No. 17 • July 16, 1999

Nation

Artist:Wayne Polson



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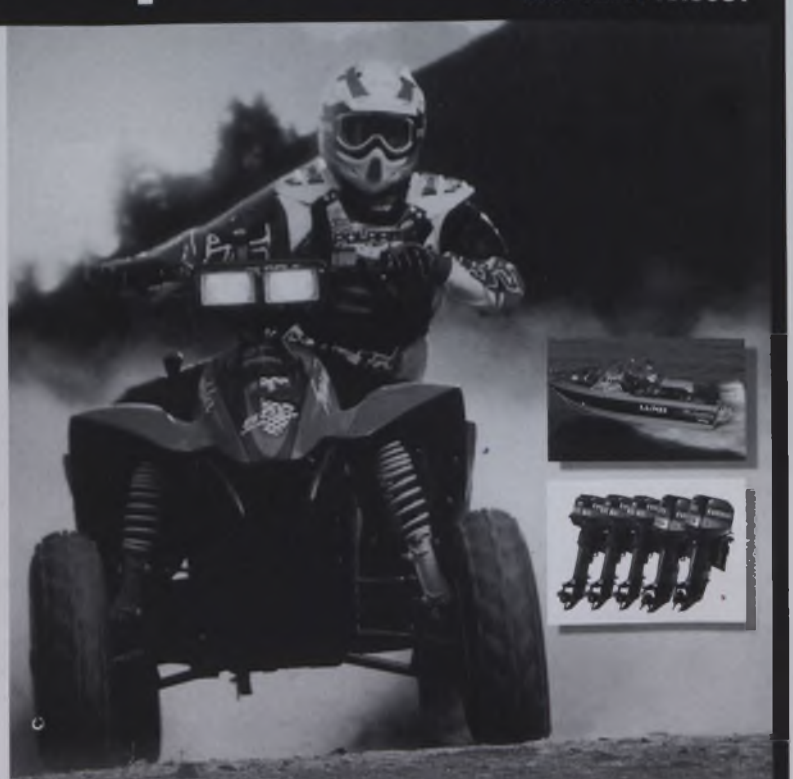

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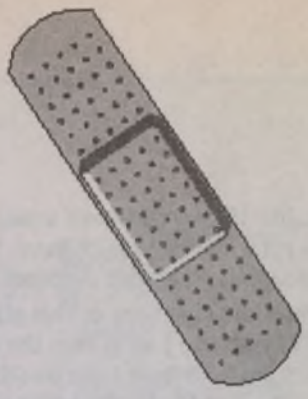

I would sure hate to be Lucien Bouchard right about now, especially if it was time for a check-up. "Please cough for me, Mr. Bouchard..." Not a good position to be in.

Even in the best of times being a nurse is not an easy job to go into. The working conditions are very difficult, the hours are long and the clientele are usually not at their best. And now they have to deal with the government, which seems to have forgotten just how important a nurse's job is. How quickly they forget.

I had a good glimpse in the inner workings of a nurse's shift once last summer. I wasn't a patient but a visitor to a good friend who needed the best medical care one could ever have. It was a Thursday morning when Steve was pedaling along the street, on his way to work, when a car driving in the opposite direction unfortunately met my friend in a head-on collision. Though he wasn't wearing a helmet, they say it wouldn't have made a difference anyway because of the trauma his brain went through. Helmet or no, the result would've been the same. (Please wear a helmet.)

He arrived at the hospital without any identification papers on him. The hospital didn't know who he was. He was admitted in as Mr. X. When he went in his brain level activity, according to the Glasgow Coma Scale, was 4. The scale is used to gain an indication of a patient's neurological condition, with three representing a totally comatose patient and 15 representing a fully alert one.

All through the weekend he was Mr. X. They finally put his picture in a major paper for people to identify him. Throughout all this there was one phone number in his pocket. It was the client's number he was on his way to see. In the meantime the hospital called the client, then the client called Steve's partner, who called Steve's sister. It was Sunday evening.

During all the weekend, he was alone with only the doctors and nurses as his lifeline. I got the call on the Monday and rushed down. He was lying on the bed with his sister and his family, who had made an all-night trip in from Ontario, by his side. I kept my emotions in check as I walked in to his room. I held his hand. I bent down and said, "Hey man, wake up! It's me, it's time to wake up!" With that his leg twitched, then his body tensed up and he squeezed my hand... "It's ok man, you can relax now... We know you're there." Then he relaxed. We knew he was going to be ok.

We took turns watching over him. I took the night shift with his brother. We woke him up hourly to stimulate him and switch his position. I had the privilege to see the nurses at work. Watching them at work put my mind at ease about the time he was alone. I knew he was in good hands. The effects of the funding cuts the government made a couple of years ago were still reverberating. Every department felt it; it's true they did make do. Maybe now the janitor doesn't have time to sweep the floor before he mops it. Because if he swept he'd have no time to finish the job. Maybe the nurses have less time per patient when they do the rounds. My friend's mom there beside him was a lucky thing, because many times it would've been unpleasant for my friend. Eventually the nurse would've come but sometimes the wait would've been too long for my friend. 'Cause when you gotta go, you gotta go.

There are many other issues that have to be dealt with also because there are different conditions when you look at the regions. The nurses up north also have their own needs that need to be taken care of. The care and attention my friend received may sometimes have been compromised because there simply was no time. I admire the dedication and teamwork that I saw during the time I was in the hospital with my friend. They made the best with what they had.

But the government now has to give back what it took away. I hope that Marge and the crew get what they ask for and double. Because if I have to spend time in a hospital for some reason, I would rather they sweep before they mop.

My friend is making a beautiful recovery and he plans to come back again for school.

by Ernest Webb

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THE COVER

Wayne Polson and his work.

Photographer: Neil Diamond
Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rezNotes
by Ndiamon

We are aboard the Polar Bear Express, George and I. There are no polar bears to speak of on this line that runs daily between Moosonee and Cochrane every summer. They named this train run so because polar bears were considered more glamorous and exotic than the black bears that live in these parts. Imagine the disappointment that befalls tourists from Maine when they learn they would have to travel 250 more miles north to actually see a live polar bear.

The "Polar Bear Express" is 10 or so cars long and the only smoking sections are at both ends of the train. At the front is the smoke-filled and ancient car that's probably been in use since the '60's. It looked vaguely familiar to George, having taken this route on his way to the Brantford residential school in 1965. I remember the same seat covers from my trip in 1968. Whatever. It's been here, this line, since forever.

The other smoker-friendly car on the express is the bar where the traditional orange caboose used to be. Remember those? The caboose has been deemed obsolete and replaced with a bar car. The entertainment car, as they call it, is standing-room-only an hour after the train leaves Moosonee. A blonde in a short black dress is caressing the keys on a piano and warbling some old hit song from long ago while we sway to the rhythm of the train. The cast of characters is more diverse than it used to be when segregation between the races was tolerated. It used to be that an Indian couldn't sit in the same car as the tourists and other white passengers. But I don't think the Indians ever complained the way one tourist bitched about not being able to get a seat in our Indian-filled car. "You pay this much money and you can't even get a seat in here!" he whined. George looked at me, smiled knowingly and said, "Now they know how we used to feel."

I didn't complain when my family and me were placed in the Indian car coming back from "Northern Ontario" to Moosonee. It was filled with shoppers and partyers. It started to look and feel like a Wild West movie when a party near our section started beating each other up. They were hitting each other, you know, like if they had been armed with Winchesters they would have had a showdown or an all-out shootout.

I had bad memories of this place so I don't know why I went into the bar in the first place. Perhaps some twisted side of my being wanted to relive that time and see if it really was bad as I remembered it. Or maybe I was just thirsty. Anyway, my only good memory of that trip was the time after finally reaching the station I went through almost the entire train picking up change under filthy seats. I made about seven dollars. A lot of money in those days for a twelve year old.

So we walk in, right, and sidle up to the end of the line 10 drinkers long and music's playing, right, the lakes, river and dams are zooming by. The scenery's just zooming by. (I said that, right?) We're going like around 50 but it looks like you're going double that because the trees are so close. We finally get our orders and look around the full car for a seat. The only available seats are near the exit perhaps 20 or even 30 feet away and there is nowhere to hold on to and the train is rocking back and forth on the old tracks. And we have full plastic glasses. How to negotiate that straight line without spilling half of your drink on someone and looking like a loser. So we put our best feet forward and walked by the staring crowd trying our damnedest not to walk like John Wayne after a few too many whiskeys. We made it with only a few drops spilt and sat down.

A group of French speaking elementary school teachers from Chapleau were shouting out request to the piano player, "Do you know any Celine Dion?!?" and singing along to John Denver's Country Roads. An hour before we reach our destination the barmaid call out last call for alcohol. And that's the last thing I remember.

I woke up hours later and we were on the highway speeding towards Vald'Or trying to catch last call at the Chateau Louis. We made it with five minutes to spare and a full house. "You guys look so innocent." a woman tells us.

And that's the last thing I remember.

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Nation

St. Anne's Anna Wesley found guilty

Moose Factory resident and Catholic nun Anna Wesley, 72, pled not guilty to charges of administering a noxious substance and assault, but was convicted on May 10.

A Sudbury judge decided the Cree nun who forced children at Fort Albany's St. Anne's residential school to eat their own vomit will face enough punishment simply by going home to her community of Moose Factory after being convicted.

She forced three children, who couldn't keep their cod liver oil down, to eat vomit off their plates, according to testimony. When they couldn't keep that down, she forced them to eat the vomit again. One child was served the same vomit for three days without being given anything else to eat, the court was told. Wesley worked at the Catholic St. Anne's school during the 1950s. The school was started in 1903.

It was one more milestone on a long road to justice for Fort Albany residents. In 1990, then-chief Edmund Metatawabin and his community requested a reunion conference on the issue of the St. Anne's school and the legacy it left behind.

The conference included a testimonial panel of Aboriginal professionals who listened to individuals who felt they had been abused during their stay in the school. A panel report was produced and given to the Ontario Provincial Police. After five years and 900 interviews, seven people were charged with criminal offences.

One of those was Anna Wesley, a First Nations Catholic nun.

Metatawabin, after hearing there would be no jail time for Wesley, said the conviction is the important thing. "Justice would have been better served with jail, but we got what we wanted," he said.

"It shows these incidents took place. It's not hearsay," said today's chief, Mike Metatawabin. He, too, was disappointed with the sentence and said "the people who experienced it were upset with what seems to be a slap on the wrist for the person who was responsible for the pain."

Counting Wesley, five people have been convicted on charges stemming from St. Anne's. One other person was found not guilty. Ed Metatawabin said this was because the victim was too sick to go to court.

Ed Metatawabin said the community originally approached Indian Affairs, the Ontario government and Catholic church to begin a mediation process, but was rebuffed. "They must have thought it was because we had no money for a court case," he said.

Things have changed since the convictions. The parties were to sit down to begin an alternative dispute resolution process on July 12. "The convictions were our ace to begin this process," Ed Metatawabin said.

"I don't think this process will be settled in a year. St Anne's had 70 years to damage our culture and people."

Ed Metatawabin said the process respects the wishes of the Elders in seeking mediation. This process will be the long journey of healing, he said. While compensation would be sought, it would not be awarded in a way to indicate that one person's pain was greater than another's was, he added.

by William Nicholls

Tensions high over forestry

Blockade season has hit with a bang in Northern Quebec and forestry is at the heart of the tensions - from Cree land to Algonquin.

In Waswanipi, reports are coming in that youth and trappers are itching to hit the barricades. "Everyone's a walking timebomb," said one resident. "If we get our act together and everybody blocks a road, we won't have enough roads to block. We'll be blocking our driveways," he quipped.

One inebriated trapper was seen walking around the community early in the morning with his gun, an axe and packsack trying to talk his friends into blocking the highway. He was finally convinced to go home.

Meanwhile, in Algonquin land, the roadblocks are already here. First, Winneway kicked forestry workers off its land in a protest over logging. With negotiations with Quebec going nowhere fast, the workers blocked the highway just outside another Algonquin community, Lac Simon. The workers wouldn't let Native motorists through, but non-Natives could move freely.

Frustrated Lac Simon residents set up their own blockade in protest. Unsatisfied, the forestry workers set up a third blockade to protest the second one. Everything ended peacefully.

Tensions are now being inflamed by Montreal crime tabloid *Photo Police*, which waded into the issue in its June 2 edition. In an unsigned article, the tabloid said it's no surprise the "Whites of Val d'Or" are sick of "all these goddamn (maudites) demands."

"It seems the more we give the Indians, the more they want. And the more they have, the more studies show they are incapable of getting out of their problems with drugs, alcohol and conjugal violence," says the tabloid.

With most Natives living in big cities, the "temptations are higher than at the side of the river (in a tent). And the cost of living too. So it's not surprising that they demand the money of people who work from morning to night to pay the taxes from which the Indians are themselves exempt," the tabloid adds. **-A.R.**

Innu hydro deal impaled

Letter to *The Nation*:

Open letter to MM. Lucien Bouchard and Jacques Brassard:

To my great surprise, the media have just informed us that Hydro-Quebec and the Montagnais band of Betsiamites, on the Lower North Shore of Quebec, have recently concluded - without us being invited - a deal to divert the rivers Portneuf, Sault-aux-Cochons and Manouane, toward the Bersimis River so they can increase hydro-electric production.

As for the first two rivers, I don't have much to say because they are tributaries of the St. Lawrence and belong to the people of the Lower North Shore (which is pretty much another country!) But for the Manouane River, it's a different story...

Understand me well! This isn't some little stream of water we are diverting for a few kilometres - no! - but a broad and long river, a river as beautiful and pure as the day, a river animated by a thousand forms of life, bountiful and full of fish, a river that washes with its body an immense and lush valley, wild and charged with history, a river we propose to divert to another basin until the end of time.

On other continents, there are countries that are at war and have brutally killed each other for thousands of years to assure their access to a simple water source. Here, no one asks themselves anything or worries at all about the massive precedent and the major stress we will inflict on the environment, on the eco-systems linked to each other by the water, to Lake Saint-Jean and the Saguenay fjord. If we allow this to happen without a fight, if we permit others to take our greatest wealth - our water - then our society is dead and buried. Other people are the kings and masters. And those who live here are their slaves, their Food...

Explain to me the logic of this deal between two different peoples who give themselves the totalitarian right to seize an environmental heritage and natural resource that is not theirs, and which belongs - since the last ice age 10,000 years ago - to my homeland, the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean. For four centuries, the colonial government of Quebec has pillaged and poached, without consultation, without shame, the natural resources of my "Country"; it destroys the forests to enrich the State and the multinationals that lead it; it harnesses our rivers for hydro-electric energy to supply the factories of the south and fill the government's coffers. Now that the soil has been soiled, now that the forest is agonizing because of the degradation caused by outsiders, now that poverty surrounds the wildlife and the people, here we have decided without the mandate of the people to divert an entire water course that is part of their exclusive heritage...

I surprise myself in dreaming more strongly than ever for a new "Country" where we are finally at home, where all the people who live there sculpt it with their labour, respect each other and are respected for who they are. And you, our representatives, what do you dream about? What are you doing with our dreams?

Russel Bouchard, historian, author
Chicoutimi

Cree Nation of Chisasibi

The Chief, Councillors, and staff of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi want to congratulate

Albert Rondeau

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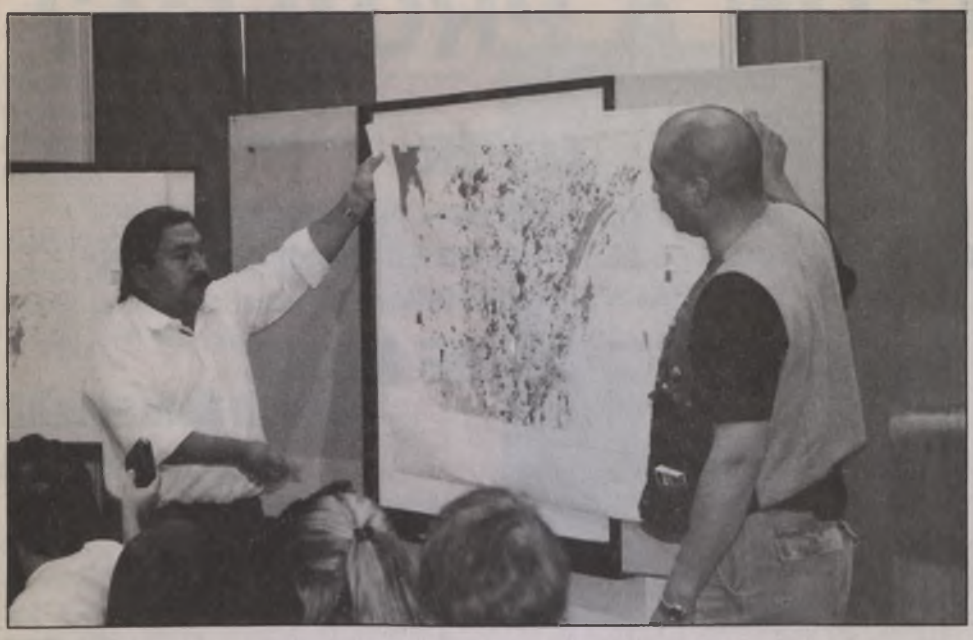

INJUNCTION TO BE SOUGHT TO HALT LOGGING

Crees are going to court to demand an injunction on forestry activities in Iyiyuuschii after negotiations with Quebec collapsed with no deal.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and the Cree chiefs decided last week to request two so-called interlocutory injunctions, one against the province and Ottawa, and the other targetting two dozen companies operating in Cree traplines.

The injunctions could bring logging to a halt while the Cree forestry case filed last summer winds its way through the court system.

It could mean over $1 billion in losses per year to the companies, according to Cree estimates, and thousands of workers laid off.

Crees held off on asking for the injunction while negotiations stumbled along with Quebec for a year.

In the injunctions, the Crees ask the court not to approve any new forestry plans or permits until a complete environmental and social review is done, in accordance with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Many of the cutting plans are up for renewal this fall.

"We are confident that full environmental and social-impact assessment and reviews will demonstrate that present forestry practices are unacceptable in Northern Quebec, and need to be curtailed and radically altered," said Coon Come in a statement.

Quebec reacted furiously when it first discovered Crees were contemplating the injunction to add more zip to the $600-million-plus *Mario Lord* forestry case. Quebec cut off negotiations with the Crees on millions of dollars for promised essential-services projects.

by Alex Roslin

The Parti Québécois government and forestry industry have been under enormous pressure from the public to change forestry practices after a scathing documentary on clearcutting in the North was released earlier this year by poet-songwriter Richard Desjardins and film-maker Robert Monderie.

Last month, Quebec and the Crees seemed to almost have a deal on forestry. Quebec was apparently ready to give Crees a say over forestry planning and a share of stumpage fees it collects from Cree traplines - about $5 million per year, or 10 per cent of stumpage fees collected in Iyiyuuschii.

Quebec and the Crees would have formed a joint entity with a 50-per-cent Cree board of directors to review and approve forestry cutting plans. The entity would have also run a program to assist trappers affected by forestry. Quebec proposed to ensure that no more than 50 per cent of a trapline is cut.

Later, Quebec reportedly backed off on some of these ideas. Provincial negotiators wanted to give the joint entity the power to make only a recommendation on cutting plans to the minister, not full control. The province also apparently balked on funding the entity adequately.

In Cree eyes, Quebec also fell short in terms of compensation to trappers and hunters for past damages.

Yet another sticking point was whether the deal would have status as a treaty, which means it's constitutionally protected. Quebec wanted to simply enact it in a law, easily amended later.

16 convicted of poaching

Sixteen individuals in Chibougamau and Roberval have been found guilty on various poaching charges and fined $62,429, according to Quebec's Wildlife Conservation Service.

These are the highest fines ever imposed in Northern Quebec for wildlife offenses.

The 16 were found guilty of 63 charges in all. They are: Robert Martel (16 charges, fined $11,831), Nicole Otis (two charges, fined $4,106), Danielle Cantin (two charges, $4,106), Claude Chouinard (19 charges, $10,556), Germain Crousette (eight charges, $3,250), Gérard Martel (one charge, $600), Louise Trudeau-Champoux (two charges, $4,106), Colette Dorosz (one charge, $2,281), Ginette Brodeau (three charges, $335), Germain Gauvin (one charge, $2,281), Eloi Lecompte (one charge, $2,281), Jocelyne Tremblay (one charge, $2,281), Michel Tremblay (one charge, $2,281), Gilles Pépin (three charges, $6,843), Denis Tremblay (two charges, $4,562), Marlène Marcil (one charge, $900).

Off-shore islands lawsuit dropped

The Grand Council of the Crees has dropped its lawsuit to prevent the transfer of the offshore islands to Nunavut.

It isn't giving up claim to the islands, but will try to settle the issue in negotiations.

Cree and Nunavut representatives have met to discuss the dispute and a meeting will be held between Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik.

Shelter raising funds

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal is launching its fundraising campaign - Circle of Friends - on July 24 at the Chalet du Mont Royal.

The Queen Elizabeth Hotel will cater a meal inspired by traditional Aboriginal cuisine. Elders will share their teachings, film-maker Alanis Obomsawin is the keynote speaker and there will be a performance by Wayquay from New York, who

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continued from page 7

got an award for Best Music Video at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

The funds raised will go to crucially needed servies for the many Aboriginal women and their children who may otherwise be on the street. Tickets are $100.

Info: (514) 486-9925.

Clinton visit doesn't impress Sioux

U.S. President Bill Clinton paid a visit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation earlier this month with promises to find a way to "fix this" economic crisis plaguing the Lakota community.

With an unemployment rate of 73 per cent and a lack of running water in some homes, Clinton was here to promote plans to build new housing and tour areas devastated by a recent tornado.

Pine Ridge was the site of the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre in which 300 Lakota people were slain.

Clinton announced Pine Ridge and other First Nations will get $1.5 billion in private and government funds for housing and economic development.

But the Teton Sioux Nation, which represents Pine Ridge and eight other First Nations, said Clinton's visit avoided the "real issues of poverty and neglect resulting from over 100 years of colonization." The president failed to acknowledge or mention the treaties his government has repeatedly violated or the nation-to-nation relationship between the U.S. and Sioux.

The Sioux said the president also failed to address his government's efforts to undermine international indigenous human-rights efforts at the United Nations.

Emotions in the community are running high after the murder and mutilation of two local Native men. Local police have been accused of brutality toward Native people. Several thousand people marched to White Clay, a nearby non-Native town, to protest the murders. They were also angered that the town's only reason for existing seems to be to sell alcohol to Native people.

Clinton was on a four-day tour of economically depressed areas of the country, trying to create "new markets."

Cree sues for $1.5B

Raphael Cree, a 106-year-old Cree from Fort McMurray in Northern Alberta, is suing the federal government for $1.5 billion as compensation for mineral rights on their land.

"He wants to go back to the reserve and that's why he's here," said his son, Elmer.

Cree and 50 other members of the Paul Cree First Nation - named after Raphael's father - have been pressing their claim to the Clearwater River Reserve for decades without success. They last made headlines in 1994 after marching from Fort McMurray to Edmonton to publicize their fight.

Their struggle dates back to 1921, when the Feds set aside land for the First Nation but never provided money for development.

Without housing, schools or roads, members found life difficult, if not impossible. In the 1970s, Indian Affairs encouraged them to move to Fort McMurray, vacating their community. But Cree and his fellow band members say they are not part of another band and want official status as a First Nation, along with their own reserve.

Ontario Métis election

Tony Belcourt has been reelected as president of the Métis Nation of Ontario with 730 votes, compared to 344 for runner-up Brad Maggrah.

About 1,100 Métis people voted out of the 5,000 members. Also elected were Gary Lipinski of Fort Frances as chair, France Picotte of Timmins as co-chair, Lawrence Gladue of Ottawa as secretary-treasurer and Jason Madden of Toronto as post-secondary representative. Sharon Reynolds was acclaimed as president of the Métis women.

Action film alert

Fantasia is back. North America's biggest Asian, action, kung fu, fantasy, horror and thriller film festival is back in Montreal for the fourth year.

The program's not out yet, but past years have seen a mind-blowing collection of larger-than-life action and kung fu films.

This year, it's expanding to two downtown theatres, the Imperial Cinema (Ste. Catherine and Bleury) and the Ex-Centris Complex (St. Laurent Blvd. just north of Sherbrooke). It runs from July 23 to Aug. 15. Info: (514) 847-1726. Their web site will be launched July 15 at < www.fantasiafest.com >.

Cree Nation Survey

1. Should Crees be partners with Hydro-Quebec?

Yes_____
No_____
Need more information____

2. Do you want Hydro-Quebec's Rupert River Diversion?

Yes____
No____
Need more information____

3. Do you want Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale River Diversion?

Yes____
No____
Need more information____

4. Should we have a Special General Assembly to address this issue?

Yes____
No____
Need more information____

Fax answers to: (514) 278-9914, email to: will@beesum-communications.com or mail it to 5505 Blvd. St. Laurent #3018, Montreal, Qc., H2T 1S6.

Wayne Polson: Artist

By Neil Diamond

Algonquin artist Wayne Polson smiles when recalling his first sale: a wooden Indian face trimmed with beaver fur. The American tourist's well-spent three dollars were well-spent in turn by the six-year-old artist at the local chip stand.

Polson began carving at the impossibly young age of five in his hometown of Winneway. He started with simple wooden crucifixes which he would stain brown with the flame from a torch. "I look at them today and I feel it wasn't me who made those," he says.

Today, his medium is bone, antlers, animal hide, porcupine quills and the decidedly more modern glass beads. Out of these he fashions miniature bald eagle heads, feathers, broaches, barrettes, clocks, letter openers, knife handles and sculptures of eagles in flight with fish trapped in their talons.

"My most unusual piece was a pool cue," says Polson. The pool cue handle was a dragon carved from moose bone with fiery red eyes and fire from its gaping mouth. That was quickly picked up by an Abitibi collector and is probably hanging in his basement poolroom.

Wayne also works with oil on canvas and prefers abstracts of wildlife. If his paintings are anything like his carvings you want to see them.

Entering Wayne's cluttered basement studio in Waskaganish one can hear the whine and whir of his high-speed rotary drills and smell the burning bone. In one corner sits a pile of antlers and dry white bones from caribou, moose and geese. "I'll sometimes sit for two hours looking at a piece... visualizing," he says of his collection.

With effortless ease he transforms a small piece of bone into an art object that can be worn or displayed.

Like most Native artists Wayne is self-taught and learns by "working with other artists, sharing ideas." And just practicing.

Indeed Wayne can sometimes be found in his small studio until five in the morning touching up an eagle's eye or just looking at a simple piece of bone waiting, it seems, for it to tell the artist what it wants to be.

Eastmain Celebrates

Tiny Eastmain sure knows how to throw a giant party. The official opening for the "Stajun Mamougoomg" sports and community complex was the reason for one such bash on the 21st of June. After several years working for this day, walking several hudred kilometres from Eastmain to Vald'Or, or was it the other way around? (That's how long it's been.), it finally arrived. Eastmain's very own arena and then some.

The lineup of special guests flown in for the occasion would have filled a who's who of the Creeland chapter. Andre Caille, chairman of Hydro-Quebec, Billy Diamond, Chief of Waskaganish, Walter Hughboy, Chief of Wemindji, Mistissini's Kenny Loon, Deputy Grand Chief and Chief of Chisasibi Violet Pachanos, Quebec Native Affairs Minister Guy Chevrette, MP Guy St-Julien, Chief Matthew Mukash of Whapmagoostui, UN Ambassador Dr. Ted Moses, Chief George Wapachee of Nemaska and the list goes on.

The traditional and always chaotic feast of goose with trimmings was served in the complex's basketball court and afterward a dance. Apres la danse a massive fireworks display was held behind the new building.

Let the games begin!

Chief Gilpin with Ministre Chevrette

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Centre for Native Education

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the Cree class of 1999.

Caroline Mark	B.A. Human Relations
Minnie Matoush	B.A. Applied Social Science
Nellie Pachanos	B.A. Applied Social Science
Alice Rondeau	Certificate in Adult Education
Kathy Shecapio	B.A. Industrial Relations (U de M)

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!

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I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DREAM

The following is the graduation speech given to the Class of '99 by Robert Weistche, Chairman of the Cree School Board, in Wemindji on June 25. -Ed.

Watchia!! I thank the organizers of this ceremony for inviting me here today. I would like to congratulate the class of 1999 graduates in all of our schools in Eeyou Istchee. A special recognition given to those who were successful in their post-secondary educational pursuits. The steps you've taken are commendable. A job well done. Congratulations to all of you.

I greet the parents and grandparents who have helped the students successfully complete their studies. In addition, we should recognize the dedication of the teachers who work with the students and other school staff who are important part of the operation of the school. We should all congratulate the graduates for their effort and success.

In 1975, the Cree Nation decided to organize itself differently to retake control of our society. We created the Cree School Board to give us control over the education of our children and over the training of our adult population. We created the Eeyou Tabaytachesiw, Cree Regional Authority and Grand Council to give us local and regional services and protection of the environment, some control over the development of our lands and protection of Cree rights. We created the Cree Health Board to give us control over the health services provided to our people. Also, we created the Cree police force, the Cree Trappers' Association and the Income Security Program, as well as other entities (Board of Compensation, craft and tourism associations, Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Coordinating Committee, etc.)

Why did we do all of this? We did it in part because we had lost control of these things. For many years before we had lived on the land, protected from the changes that non-Cree society was bringing to the lands outside of Eeyou Istchee. Then we saw our children taken away to schools far away and we saw that our parents had nothing to say about what happened to us. In health we saw the sometimes inhumane treatment given to Cree patients. Often families did not know where the patient had been taken or what had become of him or her. We saw our respected leaders, the ouchimouch, today called the "ntohow ouchimouch," treated without respect by those who would come onto our lands to build roads to take the trees and the water and materials, spoiling the hunt, our traditional economy, because they wanted to take something from the land.

We also created the parts of Cree government because these were the best way to express our rights and the best means to defend ourselves against the governments of Canada and Quebec, Hydro-Quebec, the James Bay Development and Energy Corporations, and all of the other entities used by non-Cree society to take our lands and even our way of life. Never forget that when the government of Quebec fought us in the court in 1972 and 1973, it argued that the Crees were no longer a people, that we had given up our traditions and language, and were now just Quebecers like everyone else and should therefore not have any special rights.

We are here today, 24 years after we signed the James Bay Agreement, to celebrate the fact that we now have students who study in schools we control and run. Our children live at home and when they enter our schools they are never told not to speak our language. They are taught in Cree. We continue to work on increasing the Cree content in our curriculum while also giving the students the chance to learn what they need to understand about the larger world beyond Eeyou Istchee. We, the Cree Nation, make the decisions.

The students who graduate today will be the ones to take Cree society into the future. They have a world of opportunity before them. We need Cree professional people of all kinds: teachers, lawyers, engineers, secretaries, computer technicians, doctors and nurses, pilots, mechanics, forestry technicians, accountants and administrators. We need these people to help us build our society, to improve the services we provide and to help defend our society against the forces that would tear it apart and once again make it subject to the decisions of others.

That is very important to Cree society as we are few in number and we must defend our hunting way of life, our language and culture so they can continue to be important parts of the identity of our children and our children's children. In order to do this we need to strengthen our institutions so the Cree Nation can be strong and fight to increase Cree rights.

> "Who in this room will sacrifice some of their children so the others can live a little better?"

Some people say we should forget about our rights, give up on our fight for special protections for our way of life against forestry operations and hydroelectric projects and mining. They say, for example, that we should cut the forest the same way that non-Cree companies are doing or that the construction of a dam, the diversion of the river and the flooding of lands are just business decisions and don't concern the Nation as a whole. We cannot leave the hunters to defend themselves so that a few others in our society could make some money. Who in this room will sacrifice some of their children so the others can live a little better? I don't think anyone would do this. We need to stand together to protect our lands and at the same time create employment for our people. We must change the way development is done on Eeyou Istchee.

Why is it that we have so much difficulty in our society today in standing together to defend our own rights? I believe this is because we have not supported the office of the Grand Chief and the Cree Nation enough. We have given all our chiefs the power to decide issues that affect all our rights. When one chief sells our rights for what he or she might think of as a short-term benefit for his community, we all lose part of our collective rights. When one person, organization or community is forced by Quebec, Canada or Hydro-Quebec or a forestry company to accept to weaken our rights, we all lose.

If we keep allowing these outside forces deal with us one by one, we will lose our rights to the land, to control our education and to control our health services. Today Quebec refuses to negotiate with the Grand Council on health services. Why? Because Quebec wants to negotiate with the Health Board on an administrative level. Quebec knows it can control the Health Board by threatening it with budget cuts or by threatening the non-Crees who work for the Board.

Cont'd on page 14

Cont'd from page13

We should not let Quebec divide us like this. If Quebec is to deal with the Crees, it must deal with the Cree Nation through the Grand Council of the Crees.

Even more disturbing today is what is happening with the Rupert River. Hydro-Quebec wants to divert this river to make money by selling electricity to the United States. In 1989 at a General Assembly we decided to oppose future of mega-hydro projects. We reaffirmed this decision in many assemblies following. At the time we opposed the Eastmain, Great Whale, Nottaway and Broadback River projects. We had seen the destruction caused by river diversions and massive reservoirs, and we opposed this.

Then, Hydro-Quebec said it would no longer build projects if they were opposed by the local community to be impacted. They were very smart in saying this. Some Cree chiefs have responded to this by saying, "This means the decision of whether to divert the Rupert and Great Whale Rivers is up to each community and no longer up to the Grand Council." Hydro-Quebec was then welcomed into our communities and given gifts to show our appreciation. The James Bay Agreement does not include the diversion of the Rupert River. It is not just the communities impacted that have rights in this regard; it is all of the communities, and not just the communities but all of us as individuals who own these rights.

Even more disheartening is that the chiefs of five of the six impacted communities, excluding Nemaska, have now signed a letter to push the Grand Council out of discussionsTHEY INTEND TO START ON THE RUPERT DIVERSION. They asked for the Grand Council to pay for their own advisors to negotiate the project. There are many questions to be asked:

1. Who in the communities even knew about this letter and who among those approved this?

2. These advisors included lawyers who are new to Cree affairs and so know little about our rights, and consultants who may have interests in seeing this project built. Are these advisors going to defend our rights? I don't think so. After the Great Whale fight, our advisors and our Grand Chief, who fought this damaging project, are now to be pushed out of the relations with Hydro-Quebec and the debate over the diversion of the river. Why have we pushed out those who so successfully defended our rights in the past?

3. When the chief negotiates, he speaks for his people. When a professional negotiator negotiates he must go back to the people who hired him for approvals. Why do we put the chiefs at the table as negotiators?

I could go on but I will not for the present. What I will say is I hope the youth coming out of school today understand how fragile our society is. I hope you can all take the larger vision of the Cree Nation and where we are going without forgetting the families that live from the land and without forgetting those whose voice in our society is seldom heard and who need our help.

Your responsibilities in the future will be great. But you'll want to take them on as they will provide you with a chance to learn more and have a real impact on our society. I encourage you to dream of where we must go and to follow your dreams for in your actions lies the future of the Cree people, the future of the Cree Nation. Do not be afraid to take this step forward. We all love you and we all support you and depend on you to seize the opportunity. There is much to be done with little time to do it. I wish you the best. May God bless you all.

Meegwetch!!
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Notice of Proposed Settlement Of Hepatitis C January 1, 1986 – July 1, 1990 Class Actions

This notice may affect your rights. Please read carefully.

Class actions have been certified in Courts in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec for:

(a) persons who are or were infected with Hepatitis C ("HCV") through a blood transfusion received in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990, secondarily-infected spouses, partners and children and other family members ("Transfusion Actions"); and

(b) persons with congenital clotting deficiencies who received or took blood or blood products in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990 and who are or were infected with HCV, secondarily-infected spouses, partners and children and other family members ("Hemophiliac Actions").

Class members who reside outside the provinces of British Columbia and Quebec are generally in the Ontario actions. Those class members who reside outside Quebec who received or took their blood or blood products in Quebec are in the Quebec actions.

TERMS OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

Subject to the courts' approval, the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments (the "FPT Governments") will pay the sum of $1,118,000,000 plus interest from April 1, 1998 (the "Fund") in full and final settlement of all claims by class members in the class actions and certain other persons. The FPT Governments do not admit any wrongdoing or liability on their part. The proposed settlement is a compromise of disputed claims. If approved, the Fund will be distributed based on severity of illness and loss as set out in the settlement agreement. The courts will fix the fees and disbursements of class counsel.

SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARINGS

Each court will decide whether the court should approve the proposed settlement, as recommended by class representatives and class counsel. The hearings to decide whether to approve the settlement will be held at the Court House:

in Ontario, on August 18, 1999 at 12:00 p.m. EDT at 361 University Avenue, Toronto; in British Columbia, on August 18, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. PDT at 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver; and in Quebec, on August 23, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. EDT at 1 Rue Notre Dame East, Montreal.

Class members who do not oppose the proposed settlement need not appear at the hearing or take any other action to indicate their desire to participate in the settlement. At each hearing, the court will consider objections to the proposed settlement by class members, but only if these objections are filed in written form on or before July 30, 1999.

Class members who object to the proposed settlement shall include in their written objection the following information:

(a) their name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address;

(b) in the case of Transfusion class members, a statement that he or she:

(i) received a blood transfusion in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990, is or was infected with HCV and believes that his or her HCV infection was caused by that blood transfusion;

(ii) is a spouse or partner who believes he or she is or was secondarily -infected with HCV by a spouse or partner who is or was infected with HCV through a blood transfusion received in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990;

(iii) is a child who believes he or she is or was secondarily-infected with HCV by a parent who is a person described in (b)(i) or (ii) above; or

(iv) is a family member of a person described in (b)(i),(ii) or (iii) above;

(c) in the case of Hemophiliac class members, a statement that he or she:

(i) is or was infected with HCV and received or took blood or blood products in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990;

(ii) is a spouse or partner who believes he or she is or was secondarily -infected with HCV by a spouse or partner who is or was infected with HCV and received or took blood or blood products in Canada in the period January 1, 1986 to July 1, 1990;

(iii) is a child who believes he or she is or was secondarily-infected with HCV by a parent who is a person described in (c)(i) or (ii) above; or

(iv) is a family member of a person described in (c)(i),(ii) or (iii) above;

(d) a brief statement of the nature of and reasons for the objection;

(e) whether he or she intends to appear at the appropriate court hearing in person or by counsel, and if by counsel, the name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of counsel; and

(f) whether he or she wishes his or her identity to be kept confidential by the Court and counsel and not to be made public.

Every written objection should be sent to the accounting firm appointed by the courts to compile the information and report to the courts at the following addresses:

Quebec:
PricewaterhouseCoopers
1250 René Lévesque Boulevard West
Bureau 3500
Montréal, QC H3B 2G4
Attention: HCV CLASS ACTIONS

British Columbia:
PricewaterhouseCoopers
601 W. Hastings Street
Suite 1400
Vancouver, BC V6B 9Z9
Attention: HCV CLASS ACTIONS

All Other Provinces and Territories:
PricewaterhouseCoopers
100 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 1200
Windsor ON N9A 6T3
Attention: HCV CLASS ACTIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any questions about the matters in this notice should **not** be directed to the courts as their administrative structure is not designed to address this type of inquiry. A booklet outlining the proposed settlement and/or a complete copy of the settlement agreement may be obtained by calling **(888) 726-2656** or e-mailing **info@hepc8690.com** or visiting the website at **www.hepc8690.com.**

Toute question concernant le contenu de cet avis ne doit **pas** être transmise aux tribunaux puisque leur structure administrative n'est pas en mesure de répondre à ce genre de demande. Une brochure décrivant l'entente proposée et/ou une copie complète de l'entente de règlement proposée peuvent être obtenue en téléphonant au **(888) 726-2656** ou en communiquant par messagerie électronique au **info@hepc8690.com** ou en visitant notre site internet **www.hepc8690.com.**

Questions for class counsel should be directed by telephone or in writing to one of the following class counsel:

Quebec
Transfusion Action
Pierre R. Lavigne Tel: (613) 782-2470
or Michel Savonitto Tel: (800) 270-3881
e-mail: hep-c@mmmfavocats.com

Hemophiliac Action
Henri Petit or Jean Blaquiére
Tel: (800) 342-7924
e-mail: hepc@hodgsontough.on.ca

British Columbia
Transfusion Action
J.J. Camp Tel: (888) 236-7797
e-mail: hepc@campchurch.com
or Bruce Lemer Tel: (604) 609-6699
e-mail: blemer@gkn.ca

Hemophiliac Action
Marvin R. V. Storrow *or* David Neave
Tel: (800) 342-7924
e-mail: hepc@hodgsontough.on.ca

All other Provinces and Territories
Transfusion Action
Harvey T. Strosberg Tel: (877) 318-HEPC (4372)
e-mail: hep-c@gignacsutts.com

Hemophiliac Action
Bonnie A. Tough Tel: (800) 342-7924
e-mail: hepc@hodgsontough.on.ca

Class members may, of course, seek the advice and guidance of their own lawyers if they consider it desirable or necessary.
If the settlement is approved by the courts, class counsel believe that, unless delayed by appeals, class members will begin to receive payments in the fall of 1999. If the settlement is not approved, the class actions will continue.

This Notice approved by Mr. Justice Winkler of the Superior Court of Justice for Ontario, Mr. Justice K. Smith of the Supreme Court of British Columbia and Madame Justice Morneau of the Superior Court of Quebec.

"My Dream for the Future Calendar"

Year 2000

Beesum Communications and the Nation Magazine are proud to present My Dream For The Future Calendar: Year 2000. For this Calendar, we are asking you to share your dreams. Each month will feature you, yes, it could be you. If you want a photo of yourself and your dream for the future to be featured in one of the months in the new calendar we ask that you continue the following sentence. (max. 150 words) Suggested topics: How you see yourself in the future, Cree Culture in the future... etc.

MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE...

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Please Fax, Mail, Email your responses to us.
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Montreal Qc. H2T 1S6
Email: beesum@beesum-communications.com

Please include your name, age and phone number with each response. Thank You.

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Cree Nation of Chisasibi
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Personnel Agent
C.P. 150
Chisasibi, Quebec
J0M 1E0

A Graduation in Attawapiskat

By Xavier Kataquapit

I'm dedicating this column to hope. This hope is demonstrated with the graduation of young people in the school system in my home community of Attawapiskat, Ont. For graduates in this remote First Nation of about 2,000 people are extremely important and represent hope.

The history of education for First Nation people in the Far North is tragic, to say the least. In the early days our parents and grandparents were shuttled off to residential schools where they were abused, misused and confused. With the strengthening of our culture as we moved ahead in the more recent years, remote communities like Attawapiskat took control of their own educational services.

The Vezina Secondary School was opened only a few years ago in 1991. Before that young people like myself had to fly out to southern communities like Timmins and North Bay to go to school. It was lonely, it was painful and it was disappointing for many of us. Thanks to the hard work of our Education Authority, chief and council, and community leaders, our young people now have the choice of staying in their communities with their family and friends for secondary school education. Attawapiskat has also had the J.R. Nakogee School since the 1970s as a much more healthy alternative to the distant and cold residential schools.

It makes me feel good to see that in a few short years we already have our own people from Attawapiskat teaching in the elementary and secondary school system. These people are certified teachers Steve Kataquapit, Mary Ann Iahtail and Lillian Okimaw; and teachers' assistants Jenny Nakogee, Veronica Fireman, Gerty Nakogee, Norma Jean Tookate, Beverly Nakogee, Marjorie Wesley, Mary Ann Wheesk, Leonard Edwards, Lorraine Nakogee, Betty Rickard, Linda Mattinas, Darlene Hookimaw, Louis Edwards, Stella Lazarus, Peter Nakogee, Norbert Paulmartin, Mike Carpenter, Lynn Hirst, Daniel Koostchin, Norman Nakogee and Stella Tookate. In fact more than 50 Attawapiskat First Nation members make up the staff of both Vezina Secondary School and J.R. Nakogee Elementary School.

There is a new hope with our graduates and a realization that they can follow in the steps of those who have gone before them. Education means a lot to my people. Take for instance, my cousin Steve Kataquapit, who is a teacher in the J.R. Nakogee Elementary School. Steve believes in hope and he does all he can to encourage and support the kids. In fact he actually purchases at his own cost recognition plaques for the high school graduates and medallions for the elementary school graduates.

This year the Vezina Secondary School graduation took place June 24 with four graduates: Travis Koostachin, Mike Hookimaw, Louis Noah and Joseph Kataquapit, my brother. The guest of honour for this event is a very wonderful woman, Theresa Hall, who is a justice of the peace, originally from Attawapiskat. If anyone believes in hope it is Theresa. She and her family have been helping her son Kevin fight against cancer for the past couple of years. Her dedication, strong spirit and love lights the fire of hope in those who hear her speak.

The J.R. Nakogee graduates include: Joshua Bird, Kevin Fireman, Kathryn Gull, Reg Hookimaw, Sheena Hookimaw, Irvin Kamalatisit, Terry Kataquapit, Shawn Kioke, Diane Koostachin, Joey Koostachin, Shane Linklater, Daniel Nakogee, Gerry Nakogee, Joe Nakogee, Belinda Noah, Evelyn Noah, Emile Okimaw, Jason Paulmartin, Mike Paulmartin, Tony Paulmartin, Xavier Paulmartin, Joseph Rickard, David Sutherland, Harvey Sutherland, Sammy Tippenskum, Nancy Tookate, Doris Wesley, Pamela Wheesk and Paula Wheesk. I also say to the junior and senior kindergarten graduates: NEH-SI-KI-NEH-SIN-KEE-NO-WOW OCHI (I am very happy for you).

It feels good to be able to give the successful graduates a pat on the back and I know they will feel proud to see their names in print. Have a good summer, my friends.

Cree Nation initiating interlocutory injunction procedures related to forestry activities in Northern Quebec

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1999 - The proceedings before the Quebec Superior Court seek an end to the annual incremental destruction of the Cree family hunting territories by unsustainable forestry practices.

The Crees seek interlocutory orders from the Court forcing the governments to respect their rights and use of the land and forests and to carry out a complete environmental and social-impact assessment and review of all forestry operations in Northern Quebec.

Neither Quebec nor Canada have carried out the environmental assessment and review contemplated by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and related legislation before authorizing present forestry activities. As a result, the boreal forest is being clear-cut at rates that cannot be sustained, threatening the future of the boreal ecosystem.

Moreover, the governments and forestry companies ignore the right of the Cree people to continue their traditional economy and system of land use, and to benefit from the resources on their lands.

The Crees therefore request the Court to order that no new forestry plans or permits be approved or issued in the future, until a comprehensive environmental and social impact assessment and review have been completed and the conclusions made public and until Cree rights and use of the land are respected.

"We cannot accept that our Traditional Lands (Eeyou Istchee) be used by the forestry companies in a manner that fails to recognize any priority of Cree rights and is destructive of our traditional system of land use," stated Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come. "We are confident that full environmental and social-impact assessment and reviews will demonstrate that present forestry practices are unacceptable in Northern Quebec, and need to be curtailed and radically altered," he added.

"Our trappers will wait no longer. Nor will they allow themselves to be put in the position of begging for leftovers of the forest," said Chief John Kitchen of Waswanipi, who heads the Cree forestry team.

The Crees emphasize that they are not intent on shutting down the forestry industry in Northern Quebec. "Our concern is to make sure that the forest is protected and logging is carried out in a truly sustainable manner that considers all values and all users of the forest, particularly the original users of the forest," stated Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come.

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GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EEYOU ASTCHEE)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

MR. GREEN-THUMB

By William Nicholls

"Always remember the beauty of the garden, for there is peace."
- Author Unknown

One of the problems frequently seen in Cree communities is the lack of proper landscaping or lawn management. Not surprising considering Crees were hunter-gathers rather than farmers. A shortage of housing also meant that resources went to putting them up rather than making the lawn look nice. Perfectly understandable given the overcrowding that continues to this day even in the existing houses.

In some places the lack of lawns has even contributed to health problems. So what do we do about it?

Make a lawn, of course. Below are some tips. I also received some from my mother who I would like to thank.

New lawns can be made almost any time during the growing season, though spring and fall are preferred, with fall considered the best season in northern sections of the country such as the Cree territory. However, no matter when you make a new lawn, there are certain steps that must be followed if you want a deep root system and a thick, healthy top growth. This will cut down on erosion and give your children a nice place to play.

1. SPADE DEEPLY: Soil should be spaded to a depth of at least 6 inches. Drive the spade straight down with your foot and break each spadeful of earth as it is turned over. Don't spade when the ground is too wet. Soil is just right when you can crumble each spadeful with a slap of the spade.

2. PULVERIZE THE SOIL THOROUGHLY: If necessary, work in humus material (such as peat moss), sawdust or sand to condition the soil. In a lot of places your place is usually sand. Then you must reverse the process and add black earth to it. You can get peatmoss and the peat to add to it. They are chock-full of the materials plants need. Usually a steel-tooth rake will break up the soil lumps and give you a fine, lump-free seedbed.

3. PUT ON THREE POUNDS OF FERTILZER for each 100 square feet of area and work it into the top inch or two of the seedbeds. This assures an ample supply of all the elements grass must get from the soil. Be sure to apply the fertilizer evenly.

4. SEED WITH GOOD GRASS SEED: To get a good lawn started quickly, you need a carefully cleared seed, low in weed content and high in germination; fresh, live stolons or plugs in the case of grasses are more favourably established in this way. Sow seed at the rate of 4 to 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet of area. Plant stolons or sprigs at approximately 1 bu. to 300 sq. ft. If sowing by hand, sow half lengthwise and half crosswise. Rake the seed lightly into the soil.

5. ROLL THE LAWN: Roll to imbed seed and assure perfect contact between seed and soil. A tamper or wide board is used on small areas when roller is not available. A roller can be made with a 10-gallon drum. Just fill, wash clean of gas or oil, tip it over and push it over your lawn area. This step is essential and should not be omitted.

6. WATER WITH A FINE SPRAY: Water thoroughly, using a very fine spray. Continue to water daily until seed germination is complete or 'sprigs, stolons or plugs take new root. This is about three to four weeks. Then water as needed but always thoroughly.

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HORTICULTURE

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Tips

A seed is an embryo plant and contains within itself virtually all the materials and energy to start off a new plant. To get the most from one's seeds it is good to understand a little about their needs, so just the right conditions can be given for successful growth.

One of the most usual causes of failure with seed is sowing too deeply; a seed has only enough food within itself for a limited period of growth and a tiny seed sown too deeply soon expends that energy and dies before it can reach the surface. A seed guide states the optimum depth at which each type of seed should be sown.

Another common cause of failures is watering. Seeds need a supply of moisture and air in the soil around them. Keeping the soil too wet drives out the air and the seed quickly rots, whereas insufficient water causes the tender seedling to dry out and die. This is why you use a fine mist to water. Do it only until the soil glistens.

Want to make your own soil energizer tonic? It's simple. Take 1 can of beer, 1 cup of liquid dish soap, 1 cup of listerine, 1/4 teaspoon instant tea, 1 cup of cola (not diet). Mix them together and spray on area.

Pest control: It always seems there's someone out there to get you when you're a plant. Here are some tips on that. Insects are all over your trees and plants. Mix 1 tablespoon of baking soda, 1/4 teaspoon liquid dish soap and 1 gallon of water. Spray on affected areas.

Want more flowers or leaves on your trees? Just take a pliable stick or section of water hose and whack the tree or bush all around the bark. Becareful not to break the bark though. The whacking stimulates the tree as if it has been injured, but if there's no injury it just stimulates more growth.

Tree root soaking is important when you transplant a tree into your lawn. Take an old sock and tie to the end of your hose. Turn it on and soak thoroughly. Another method is to take a 1-gallon jug (i.e. 2-litre store-bought water container is just dandy). Using a knife, punch a hole in the bottom. Put hose in the jug and turn on. This is a gentle way of soaking the tree and it needs it. Happy Gardening!

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In loving memory of a dear friend

Dear friend,

Today is just another day to many, but it is a special one for me. You see, I never got a chance to say goodbye. You left so suddenly but I kept hoping to see you again. I felt such a sense of ultimate desolation and isolation. I didn't know where to turn. I looked for you wherever I went. I even looked for you in my dreams, but I couldn't find you anywhere. I went to the places where we had gone, but I couldn't go to all of them because it seems we had been everywhere. Even in places where dreams and visions are found, but you weren't there.

Out of confusion and looking for a sense of direction I went back to the Lodge, unreasonably hoping that you would somehow be there. The Elders told us that it was not our place to question, but you knew me almost better than most. I would relive each conversation I could think of, each laughter shared, each dream, each meeting and, yes, each argument. You were everywhere but nowhere close enough for me to find you.

I never found you again. This was until I looked into the eyes of loved ones and those who knew you well. There, I found my friend again. It was a presence so strong it could not be denied. It was in the laughter shared through memories past and journeys taken. As time went on, I cannot help but rejoice that we even knew you. I saw the markings left the behind by a dear and wonderful friend to all. I realized then just how blessed we were that you had chosen our nation to lead.

To move on, I had to go back to the fateful afternoon when I got a call telling me the unbearable news. They said you left with your daughter. Luke said, "James passed away today." Unbelievable, but they said it was true. I never understood what people meant when they said that part of them died when loved ones passed on. But that day, I understood all too well.

You were gone. Gone to a place where no pain is felt and where you were to rest eternally. That night, I went out and spoke to you. I asked you to show me a sign that you were still there. Not long after, the tiniest snow flakes started to fall. I cried not knowing what this sign would bring. In the morning the ground with covered with a bank with a pure white snow. Again, I cried because I knew it meant you were really gone. Gone, never to return again. It took a while for me to stop picking up the phone and dialing your number, only to hang up again and again.

Almost two years later, I can look back with a better understanding of why you had to leave. We had gotten so dependent on you to show us the way. We relied on you to bring us up when we were down and to strive for a better tomorrow for our children. Your faith in us gave us faith in ourselves. We had to learn to depend on ourselves and find amongst ourselves how to go on. You're gone but still here, especially when we take time to help each other and to be there for each other. You have taught us what leadership entails, and never to accept complacency as an excuse not to do what we feel is right.

Thank you for all you have taught us. I miss you but it is time to say goodbye and continue to ensure our dreams become reality. Dreams and visions for the people will not be lost because you've gone to rest. I'll do my part and so will others. Teamwork was at its best when people were put first and it will be so again.

So, I'm finally ready to say goodbye. I'll see you, I'll see you again, when I cross the plane of life and death and into your world. I'll see my friend again.

Nee-oo, Lisa

James Bay II?

Five of the Cree chiefs have signaled they want to split off from the Grand Council of the Crees and hold their own talks with Hydro-Quebec on the proposed Eastmain-Rupert hydro-electric project. In this letter, they explain their reasons. They thank Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come for respecting their "autonomy," and inform him that the Grand Council "shall provide funding" to hire independent advisors and "the legal representation for the preparation of future negotiations." We reprint the letter in its entirety unedited. -Ed.

"...each Cree First Nation directly affected in any manner whatsoever by the new proposed EM-1 project must be given complete autonomy and authority to make the best decision..."

May 5, 1999

SUBJECT: Proposed EM-1 project, coordination of the file

Dear Matthew:

The present proposed EM-1 project submitted by Hydro-Quebec to the Cree Nation at the March meeting of Board/Council of the GCCEA/CRA [Grand Council of the Crees/Cree Regional Authority] has the potential, if it is implemented, to affect directly or indirectly our six Cree communities, namely the Cree Nation of Eastmain, the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Cree Nation of Mistissini, the Waskaganish First Nation, the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and the Cree Nation of Wemindji. The reference made to the direct and indirect effects is in direct relation to the flooding of new land. The first four communities will certainly feel the direct impacts since their traditional land may be flooded. The other two communities as a result of the increase flow in the water levels will feel the indirect impact.

Since 1992, following the judgment of the Courts on the previous EM-1 proposed project, the Cree Nation of Eastmain spearheaded many discussions concerning this project. The fundamental basis of the discussions were to alleviate the most negative impacts, try to find less damaging routes and finally try to negotiate some compensation for the Members of the then three communities to be affected.

Following the first approach made by Mr. André Caillé to the Cree communities during a meeting of June 12, 1998, each of our communities received a specific mandate from our Members. This mandate was to oversee the file, find and obtain the complete information, then report to our Members for a decision to be taken in relation to the possibility of extending Cree consent to the project. Mr. André Caillé has specifically informed us that any potential project must first respect three criteria before any further consideration is given for the realization of the project: namely to receive Cree consent, to be economically feasible and finally to be environmentally safe.

During previous Chiefs' meetings as well as meetings of the Board/Council of the GCCEA/CRA, it was agreed that the GCCEA/CRA would be asked to coordinate the file in regard to the gathering of the information. We have always respected the expertise of the GCCEA/CRA in this field and had no difficulty in agreeing to this coordination.

Unfortunately, we are now at the end of April, 1999, there has

been no meeting called by the GCCEA/CRA for the discussion on the requirements of the file. None of our communities' appointees were even contacted by the person assigned to the coordination of the file, Mr. Romeo Saganash.

Our members have repeatedly asked for a status report on the file. The answer remains the same, there is nothing to report because no meeting has been called and no discussion was held.

Unfortunately, we have been officially informed that, even though our appointees representing each of our six communities were never informed, consulted or invited to join in a meeting, there has been some meetings between representatives of the GCCEA/CRA and representatives of Hydro-Quebec. What was said? What was discussed? Why was there a meeting? Nothing is known. We are kept in the dark.

At this point in time, we believe that it is necessary and essential to remind you and the representatives of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Astchee and/or the Cree Regional Authority that there was no mandate given to the GCCEA/CRA to carry on discussions and/or negotiations on our behalf with Hydro-Quebec. The limited mandate given was to coordinate the file for the gathering of the information. Furthermore, the mandate was given strictly on the basis that our own appointees were constantly present during any meeting and/or any exchange of information.

We must express to you our great disappointment in the present situation of the coordination of the file. In our view, nothing was done because we are aware of no discussion, no meeting.

The Grand Council of the Crees and the Cree Regional Authority are delegate entities that must receive specific mandate prior to taking any action or making any representation on our behalf. No mandate to that effect was ever given by any one of our Council or our Members. The General Assembly resolution of 1989 and subsequent resolutions do not constitute sufficient requirement to extend the specific mandate to the GCCEA/CRA. It is also not the intention of any of the six Cree First Nations to extent such a mandate to the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Astchee and/or the Cree Regional Authority.

As you, yourself, have stated time and time again during the long period of the opposition to the Great Whale project, any discussion, any decision, any action must first be made after consultation with the Whapmagoostui First Nation and its Members. They were the ones to be affected, therefore their opinion was of foremost importance.

It is our firm belief, and in this subject we share your views, that each Cree First Nation directly affected in any manner whatsoever by the new proposed EM-1 project must be given complete autonomy and authority to make the best decision in due consideration of the well-being of its own members.

On April 22, 1999, a meeting was called for discussion on the proposed EM-1 Hydro project to be attended by the Chiefs of the six Cree First Nations to be affected. Chief Violet Pachanos, Chief Walter Hughboy and Chief Kenneth Gilpin attended the meeting, the other three Chiefs having previous commitments. However, the minutes of the meeting were provided to Chief George Wapachee, Chief Kenny Loon and Chief Billy Diamond. The contents of the present letter evidence the consensus reached during and after the meeting.

On behalf of the Councils, the Members, the trappers of our six Cree First Nations, we are hereby respectfully but also unequivocally demanding the immediate end of the restricted mandate of coordination of the file of the proposed EM-1 project by the GCCEA/CRA. This also includes the immediate dismantling of the financial committee created to review the proposed partnership with Hydro-Quebec. We are also requesting your personal intervention in ensuring that all employees and/or representatives of the GCCEA/CRA immediately cease all discussions and/or communications with representatives of Hydro-Quebec in regard to this file.

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An official negotiation team shall be decided and appointed by the six affected Cree Nations. The mandate of this negotiation team shall be effective during the gathering of the information, during the decision-making process of the Members of the six Cree First Nations affected and, in the event that our Members decide to extend Cree consent to the project, during the whole period of negotiations with Hydro-Quebec. The six Cree First Nations affected shall have complete authority to extend and/or end the mandate of the negotiation team as deemed necessary and required by the six Cree First Nations affected.

The six Cree First nations affected shall discuss with you the extent of the involvement of the GCCEA/CRA in the unfolding of this file. We recognize that we share a common future and deeply rooted traditional values with the other three Cree First Nations as well as with the GCCEA/CRA. Our decision is made in the best interest of our Members who are directly affected. There is no question of complete exclusion of all other interested and/or related parties in so far as their specific situation is made in full coordination and knowledge of the six Cree First Nations affected.

In view of the need to gather all information in the coming weeks, we shall ask you to continue the mandate of Mr. McCullough. However, Mr. McCullough must be immediately informed that, from this moment forward, he shall simultaneously report to us, the Chiefs of the six affected Cree First Nations, at the same time and at the same meeting he reports to the GCCEA/CRA. Furthermore, Mr. McCullough shall also receive his instructions from us. Finally, under no circumstances whatsoever shall Mr. McCullough provide any information and/or data to Hydro-Quebec.

We shall discuss the need to hire independent advisors to review the data provided by Hydro-Quebec as well as the data provided by Mr. McCullough and other information. The GCCEA/CRA shall provide funding for the hiring of the independent advisors as well as the legal representation for the preparation of future negotiations. We believe that the collaboration of the GCCEA/CRA in this matter would certainly respect the purposes of the provision of services to the Cree communities by our Tribal Council as it receives funding for this purpose. We shall inform you of the names of the independent advisors and the legal representation as soon as the decision on the appointments will have been made by the six affected Cree Nations.

Each one of us has extended his/her support to you during your past four mandates as Grand Chief. We have supported your commitment to protect our traditions, our values, and our land. We have shared the same commitment. We also know that you will extend to us the same commitment to assure the leadership of our communities and the coordination of the file on behalf of our communities.

We also would like to request a meeting between us upon your return from your holiday. We believe that we must sincerely discuss with you our decision and our commitment. Therefore, we would appreciate if you could contact each one of the undersigned to organize the proposed meeting.

In ending, it would be remiss of us to forget to extend to you our sincere appreciation of your commitment to our Cree Nation and your willingness to recognize our own autonomy. These are two specific criteria necessary in all leaders and we acknowledge these qualities that you have shown so often in the past.

I am certain that you will understand our position and we remain,

Yours truly,

Chief Kenneth Gilpin (signed)
Cree Nation of Eastmain

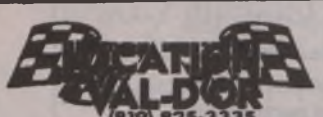
Chief George Wapachee (unsigned)
Cree Nation of Nemaska

Chief Kenny Loon (signed)
Cree Nation of Mistissini

Chief Billy Diamond (signed)
Waskaganish First Nation

Chief Violet Pachanos (signed)
Cree Nation of Chisasibi

Chief Walter Hughboy (signed)
Cree Nation of Wemindji



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CLASSIFIEDS

Redfern Allan Icebound St. Pierre on July 4, 1999. It's been a year since you came into our lives and every day he you have filled them with joy and love by this sweet adorable things you do and say. We thank God for you every day. You are a blessing and we love you more and more everyday. It's okay with Mommy and Daddy for you to eat a piece of your first birthday cake. Once again, happy first birthday. We love you always, Mom and dad, Lorraine and Claude.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY LOVE SCOTT MCDONALD.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my friend Stephanie Richmond Lacasse in Vald'Or that is turning 13 how does it feel to be a teenager. from your friend Amy Zachary

Hey my friend Stephanie Richmond Lacasse who's turning 13 FINALLY ! I hope you enjoy your birthday your friend Jamie Blacksmith.

Happy Birthday to Kenneth Nicholls. A great dad and friend on his birthday. From your wife, son and grandchildren.

102-WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate our friend miss Emma Neeposh soon to be Emma gunner hope you have a good time on your wedding day and honeymoon of course. from your old old friends Jonathan, Shirley, Leonda, Lorraine, Bianca, chicko. hope you remember our crazy times together and other thing I'll let the readers explore there their thoughts may God bless you with many children and many grand children and if the lords is willing great grand children. Ta Ta For Now I'll be in Paris Send you A post card.

104-GRADUATIONS

We would like to congratulate Renee Blacksmith whose graduating this year. and to Alice a job well done. From Jonathan and Caroline Ottereyes.

Congratulations to Barbara Brown who graduated from the Office Administration Diploma Program in Fort McMurray, Alberta. All the hard work for the past two years has paid off. We are so proud of you. All our love, from husband Wilson and son Lance.

300-PERSONALS

We would like to say Happy **Mother's Day to our Mother Sandra House(Mtl)You've been such a great Mother to me and my three brothers and there's not a day that we don't think about you, every day we think about you and we even dream about you. And where ever we are we think about you. You are so special to us and we are grateful to have a mother like you. You gave us life and showed us what life was all about. You are a loving, caring, adorable, funny, joyful and a mother that loves to laugh until she bursts to tears. We will take care of you the way you take cared of us when we were kids. Again we would like to say Happy Mother's day to you and we are sorry that we won't be there for you on mother's day. The reason why we are sending you this to the Nation is because we want to tell everyone how a loving mother you are. We love you and miss you a lot. Love from all your kids Patrick, Andrea, Brandon and Travis(babeboy)xox**

Happy Mothers Day to our mother Jane Loon, We love you From Your Daughters Jeanette, Natalie & Kyla

This goes out to My brother and friend Peter Bosum I hope your graduation is just the first of many dreams that come true for you! I'm proud to have a brother who believes in himself! There have been hard times in our lives especially when it came to the loss of our loving father but still you moved on and didn't give up in school. I know It's still hard for you when he left to be with the lord, but he still lives in you, inside and when-ever you want to talk about anything I'll be there for you don't ever forget that. Since you will be graduating in a few week's In the month's ahead I will look forward to hearing about your accomplishments and proudly telling everyone that you are my brother and my friend. You are a unique person and only you can do whatever it takes to follow your dreams. So let you spirit lead you on a path of excitement and fulfillment and know that because you are a determined and talented person any dream that you dream can become a reality I believe you can! even though I don't say much and I'm so proud of you for believing in you're self even though I may not show it take care. I LOVE YOU VERRY MUCH! Hope you have fun on June the 18th! From you're sister Theresa Bosum! xoxoxo

I would like to say hi to someone I really care about E.A DIAMOND its nice to know that each morning I wake up that your next to me and throw the days we've been together . Ever since the time I met you MAN its been fun and I strongly encourage you to go on you know stop drinking. that's why I stop because its not worth it anymore plus its alot more fun when we don't drink I don't care what other people say all I care about is you ok love.

Offshore Powerboat for Sale. Twin 200hp motors. Trailer included. Located in James Bay. See it on the Internet at www.mikemcgee.com

Looking for a long lost friend named Nikki Louttit, Nikki where in the world are you, If you could please write to me here's my address J. Nakogee Mistissini Lake,Quebec. General Delivery Gow 1co.

I would like to say hi to my sweet love and that I love him with all my heart, that he means the world to me. FROM S.B

From the classifieds department of the Nation. We apologize for your messages not appearing on time. We've been having technical difficulties and are working on them. Thank you.

CLASSIFIEDS

100 BIRTHS

Congratulations to Rebecca Gunner and Rene Chakapash on the birth of their new baby girl who was born on April 19, 1999, time .3: 37 a.m., weighing eight pounds 13 ounces. She's a little bit of Sunshine, she's a smile to light your days, she will steal your hard and keep it with her endearing ways, she's your precious daughter with a sweetness from above who will light your years with laughter. Take good care of her. God bless you all. From Melanie G. the babies named it is Skylynn Alice Celine April.

101 BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our little angel Camelia who will be celebrating her birthday on June 27, 1999. Happy birthday and we love you so much. Love, Mom, dad and your sisters and your tuff brother Douglas. xxxxxxxxx. Waskaganish.

Sending our birthday wishes to our cousin. Happy birthday true Randall Pachanos! We hope you have fun on your birthday on June 27 and may God bless you and watch over you as you grow. Also googoo Valerie is sending hugs and kisses to you. xoxoxoxoxoxox. Love, Christina, Krista, Savannah and Douglas. Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to young and handsome boy who will be celebrating his birthday on June 27. To my friend Randall. I love you and miss you. From your special friend Camelia. P.S. please send a study picture of your new look.xoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

Happy birthday to Jerome Jolly on July 6th. We love you and may you have fun on your special day. With all our love, Mom, dad, brothers and sisters. xoxoxoxoxo. Saganash.

Happy birthday to Fredrick Jonah for hearing my thoughts, understanding my dreams, for being my best friend and loving me without end. Happy birthday darling. I love you so much. Love always, Valerie.

A birthday wish to my auntie Ellen Pepabano on June 18 1999. Make sure you invite me and Mommy when you blow out your candles. Love you so much. From your nephew Sebastien.

Hey Vic!! Here is your birthday wish that you were screaming for! Finally, a birthday wish, IN THE NATION, just for you. Somebody likes you, they really really really like you!! Happy twenty-something on June 19, 1999.

Andy Baribeau, Happy Birthday on June 4, 1999. Now its our turn to cook for you on your birthday. Kind of a tribute to your last birthday of this millenium. Don't worry, we won't let whats her name cook any surprise (Boston..) cakes. We'll stick to the frozen kind that only takes 20 mins to defrost.

Happy 18th Birthday to a special girl on June 30,1999,whom we call her our own daughter and a sister. Her name Natacha Shelley Moar from Nemaska.It seems like only a year ago that you were 18 months old now you are already 18 years old. If you plan to celebrate on your birthday please celebrete without the (you know what we mean eh!). P.S Remember that you will always be a special girl in our lives. Love always Mom, Dad&Brothes Linda,William,Nathan&Naman Moar.ooxxooxx

Happy Birthday to two of my sister's Elizabeth B. Shecapio on June 26 also to my other sister who lives in Ottawa Joyce Bosum on June 27 May you're day's be as special as you both are! Also Joyce don't party too much! and when are you coming down? I wanna see Yolanda now! so as the rest of the family take care both of you! from you're sister Theresa. love you both!

Wishing a Happy Birthday to Mimie Neacappo on July 24. From the First Nations Bank staff.

This special combined HAPPY BIRTHDAY and belated FATHER'S DAY message goes out to my papa and Philip (it's so nice to have you back for a while). All my best and from the rest of us too (mama, Michael and Rhonda). xoxoxo

Jamie Pashagumeskum, I know you're out there in the capital of our home and native land. A quarter of a century old on June 10th. That's quite something don't you think? In that occasion, I wish you a most SHAG-A-RIFIC birthday. Oh, Mark, make sure it's a gooood one. We miss you up here, but that's o.k. We'll catch up on the fun later this summer. P.S. Softball season is up! WOO HOO! From your BUD, Mimie.

Happy 34th Birthday to Caroline "Gagoose" Shecapio! Love from Mom, Dad, Dany, Morley, Glenn, Tina, Clifford, Cynthia, Charlotte, Madeleine, Linda, Winnie, Jeremy, & all the other monkeys, (especially Moose)!

Happy Birthday to my best friend Naomi Bosum on June 10/1999(eah!)Hope u have fun on you're B-day also want to Thank-You for always being there when I needed someone to talk too or to laugh with and thank-you for always coming with me to the clinic! (hahahaha) remember (stressed) dah! well take care of you're self and remember no hard stuff! it's not good for you're stomach (hehe) kidding Love in friendship you're best friend Theresa B.

On June 17th, a very special man in my life will be celebrating his birthday on June the 17th. This wish of love goes out to my "BIG BIRD" of a brother, Louis Neacappo who is in Montreal. Happy Birthday big bro. Each day I think of you alot and I thank the Creator for giving me an older brother that can inspire and teach me so many things in so many ways. The point is simple, I love you and don't give up. You are doing soo good. Hey Louis wouldn't it of been great as a b-day gift to finally see Sir Charles win that championship ring. If Scottie couldn't help maybe the Lakers will. Ha! The gang also sends their love, so keep it up. From Chisasibi, your sister and friend, Mimie. xxxx

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